

CLARK COUNTY STAFF REPORT

DEPARTMENT: Clark County Assessor's Office

DATE: July 20, 2021

REQUESTED ACTION: Approve an ordinance amending Clark County Code 3.08.011 to increase the current use assessment application processing fee from \$150.00 to \$400.00 to reasonably cover the processing costs of the application, including the cost of recording.

____ Consent X Hearing ____ County Manager

BACKGROUND

Property owners seeking to apply for a current use property tax deferral as provided within chapter 84.34 RCW pertaining to Open Space, Agricultural, and Timberlands are required to pay a non-refundable application processing fee of \$150.00 as established by Clark County Code 3.08.011. This amount does not reasonably cover the processing costs of the application, which will be further impacted when the Auditor's recording fee is increased from \$103.50 to \$203.50 effective July 25, 2021. Increasing the application fee to \$400 covers the cost of recording as well as the cost to process the application by Assessor's Office and other county employees.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The requested change requires an ordinance to be passed to amend Clark County Code 3.08.011.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This action does not propose any administrative policy implications.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

If approved, the new processing fee will be published to the Assessor's website as well as changes to county code. No further community outreach is expected.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

YES	NO	
X		Action falls within existing budget capacity.
		Action falls within existing budget capacity but requires a change of purpose within existing appropriation
		Additional budget capacity is necessary and will be requested at the next supplemental. If YES, please complete the budget impact statement. If YES, this action will be referred to the county council with a recommendation from the county manager.

DISTRIBUTION:

Board staff will post all staff reports to The Grid. <http://www.clark.wa.gov/thegrid/>

Michael Fish

Michael Fish
Chief Deputy Assessor

Kathleen Otto
County Manager

Primary Staff Contract Name and Extension: Michael Fish, X4547

APPROVED: *Eileen J. O'Brien*
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON
CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL

DATE: *July 20, 2021*

SR# _____



APPROVED: _____
Kathleen Otto, County Manager

DATE: _____

ORDINANCE NO. 2021 - 07-13

AN ORDINANCE amending the current use assessment application processing fee as found under Clark County Code 3.08.011 pursuant to RCW 84.34.030 and WAC 458-30-220.

WHEREAS, RCW 84.34.030 states that an application for current use assessment must be accompanied by a reasonable processing fee if a processing fee is established by the city or county legislative authority; and

WHEREAS, WAC 458-30-220 states that a county legislative authority may establish, at its discretion, a processing fee to accompany each application for current use assessment that shall reasonably cover the processing costs of the application, including the cost of recording; and

WHEREAS, the Clark County Auditor's Office recording fee will increase from \$103.50 to \$203.50, effective July 25, 2021, an amount that by itself is greater than the existing current use assessment application fee; and

WHEREAS, the current use assessment application processing fee established under Clark County Code 3.08.011 was set at one hundred fifty dollars (\$150), an amount that will not be sufficient to reasonably cover the processing costs of the application, to include the increased recording fee. Processing costs include the intake and review of applications for completeness, potential mail backs and returns for missing or incomplete information, scanning and data entry into a document repository, mapping of proposed property changes by land records, final review and approval/denial of lands into the program as prescribed by law, recording of approved applications, and to process valuation changes for approved parcels in the county's property appraisal and collection system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED AND RESOLVED BY THE CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL, STATE OF WASHINGTON, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Amendatory. Sections 1 & 2 of Res. No. 1977-10-32, most recently amended by Ord. 1996-12-04, and codified as Clark County Code 3.08.011, are each hereby amended to read as follows:

3.08.011 Current use assessment application—Processing fee

An owner of land making application to the Clark County assessor desiring "current use assessment" for open space land, farm and agricultural land, or timber land shall accompany such application and shall pay a processing fee of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) four hundred dollars (\$400.00) to include the cost of recording. Provided no application fee shall be charged when an

application is being processed because of legislative changes requiring the need to transfer properties between classifications.

Section 2. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be effective on the 10th day following adoption.

Section 3. Instructions to Clerk. The Clerk of the Council shall:

- A. Record a copy of this Ordinance with the Clark County Auditor;
- B. Cause notice of adoption of this Ordinance to be published forthwith;
- C. Provide a copy of this Ordinance to Code Publishing; and
- D. Provide a copy of this Ordinance to the Offices of the County Assessor, Auditor, and Treasurer.

Section 4. Roll Call Vote. The following persons voted in favor of the above ordinance:

Temple Lentz, Julie Olson, Karen Bowerman, Gary Medvigy, Eileen Quiring O'Brien

The following persons voted in opposition to the above ordinance:

ADOPTED on this 20th day of July, 2021.

Attest:

[Signature]
Clerk to the Council

CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

[Signature]
Eileen Quiring O'Brien, Chair

Approved as to Form Only:
ANTHONY GOLIK
Prosecuting Attorney

Temple Lentz, Councilor

By: /s/ Stephen Archer
Stephen Archer,
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Julie Olson, Councilor

Karen Dill Bowerman, Councilor

Gary Medvigy, Councilor

